

The international community must also play a productive—and more aggressive—role. The United Nations must address this issue immediately and must make the necessary decisions and actions to allow for every option and tool for establishing stability in Somalia to be pursued. It is clear that both regional and international efforts must be strengthened and coordinated more effectively, and we must heed the calls of international humanitarian organizations on the ground for additional humanitarian assistance to increasingly vulnerable populations there.

Somalia's neighbors must be cautious and patient as conditions within Somalia continue to change. Somalia's neighbors must play a supportive role to the efforts of the TFG, the United Nations, and the African Union to secure peace. Hasty, aggressive, or meddling actions could undermine or further complicate efforts to find a political solution to the stand-off between the TFG and Islamic Courts Union. All international actions relating to Somalia must be coordinated, and activities that may undermine current efforts there must not be tolerated.

Finally, the U.S. Government must take instability in Somalia seriously. Just last week, Ambassador Hank Crumpton, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, testified in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and said that the State Department has only one full-time Foreign Service officer, based in Nairobi, working on Somalia-related issues. The administration has failed to create a strategy for Somalia and is only now, after years and years of instability and chaos throughout the country, engaging in international efforts to address some of the problems Somalia faces. The administration must create one sound policy framework to support stabilizing and rebuilding Somalia within which all U.S. Government activities can be coordinated. It must also appoint a senior-level coordinator to manage the multifaceted challenges that conditions in Somalia pose to both the United States and the international community.

Past efforts have been insufficient. It is past time to take the deteriorating conditions within Somalia seriously, and we must do so immediately. Recent developments in Somalia threaten to destabilize the entire region and plunge Somalia further in to despair. We can help prevent this if we act now.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the issue of religious freedom. The freedom to believe and worship how one chooses is essential. However, as we strive for greater religious freedom and tolerance throughout the world, we have witnessed activist judges chip away at our own religious freedoms. These activist judges

have worked diligently to restrict our rights to express our religious beliefs under the guise of separation of church and state.

Many of the court decisions that have broadened Americans' first amendment right to free speech, overreach. In an effort to promote tolerance, religious expression is in fact, being censored.

Our Founding Fathers proclaimed liberty to be an unalienable right bestowed by our Creator—"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are . . . endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness . . ." Yet unelected, activist judges are rewriting history. They have decided that, in fact, the Founding Fathers did not intend for there to be freedom of religious expression but, rather, freedom from religious expression.

Thirty years of public opinion polls have shown that more than 75 percent of Americans support a constitutional amendment to protect voluntary school prayer. However, the Supreme Court has said such an act violates the constitutional separation of church and state—again, another act that forces freedom from religious expression rather than freedom of religious expression.

It is not simply this decision but a growing and disturbing trend in our Federal courts to deny the rights of our States and our citizens to acknowledge God openly and freely. In fact, reciting the words "one Nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance has been ruled unconstitutional as has displaying the Ten Commandments in a State building in my home State of Alabama. These tortured legal decisions distort our Constitution, our Nation's history and its tradition in an effort to secularize our system of government and divest morality from our rule of law.

We simply cannot divest God from our country. Our country has no foundation without a basic recognition that God invests us at birth with basic individual rights that we all enjoy as Americans. In fact, our Government and our laws are based on Judeo-Christian values and a recognition of God as our Creator.

Our motto is "In God We Trust." It is enshrined on our currency.

Our national anthem recognizes our motto as "In God is Our Trust."

As Federal officials, each of us has taken an oath of office. The President takes a similar one. State and local officials and our military personnel all swear a similar oath. Jurors and witnesses in our State and Federal courts take an oath as do witnesses before Congress. We all swear to uphold the Constitution or tell the truth, "so help me God."

Our courts, including the Supreme Court, recognize God in their official proceedings, both the House and Senate acknowledge God through an open-

ing prayer every morning. Our public buildings and monuments honor this heritage through various depictions of the basic moral foundations of our laws and system of government.

My point is that you simply cannot divest God from our country. Despite the actions of these activist judges, our country has no foundation without a basic recognition that God invests us at birth with basic individual rights—such as the blessings of liberty—that we all enjoy as Americans.

Again, I believe that the courts have exceeded their power. They have overreached. To that end, I have introduced the Constitution Restoration Act. This legislation recognizes the rights of the States and the people as embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—9th and 10th amendments—to acknowledge God.

The Constitution Restoration Act goes to the very foundation of our country and the legitimacy of our system of government. Thomas Jefferson in his first inaugural address said that "The wisdom of our sages and the blood of our heroes have been devoted to [the] attainment" of our liberty and form of government.

If we are to maintain our form of government, we must ensure that activist judges are not permitted to take away our religious liberties. The very foundation of our government cannot and should not be expunged from public view—an unelected Federal judiciary should not be allowed to outlaw all public acknowledgments of God. We must protect our very basic freedom of religious expression.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to work with me to protect this basic freedom by supporting the Constitution Restoration Act.

DRY EYE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I rise to call attention to an important but often overlooked chronic illness: dry eyes. The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation and National Women's Health Resource Center have declared July Dry Eye Awareness Month.

Every year, chronic dry eye syndrome affects nearly 10 million Americans of all ages; many sufferers will go undiagnosed. Without tears, good vision is impossible. Dry eye syndrome can cause devastating symptoms, including constant pain, an inability to focus, and, in severe cases, serious visual impairment. It can significantly affect a person's quality of life, increasing the risk of problems with reading, professional work, computer use, and night driving.

Americans suffering with dry eye syndrome either do not produce enough tears, or have poor quality tears and/or excessive tear evaporation. Either problem causes their eyes to sting and burn, feel scratchy, become irritated, or excessively tear. Most people with